do away with licensing of all kinds of Industries and of any size; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) Government's New Industrial Licensing Policy is as yet under formulation.

New Industrial Policy

359. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) when Government propose to announce the new industrial policy; and

(b) what are the Industries which will be given top priority for development in the country by multinationals and M. R. T. P. houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) Government's New Industrial Policy is as yet under formulation.

Shortage of Supply of Fertilisers to Farmers

360. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to avoid any shortage of supply of fertilisers to farmers during the current year; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

The gap between the requirement of the fertilisers and the indigenous availability is usually met by imports. Arrangements are being made to meet the demand of the current year by the unused opening stock at the commencement of the year and indigenous production as well as import. MMTC, which is the canalising agency for the import of fertilisers, has been contracting the import of DAP, MOP, Phosphoric acid, rock phosphate, sulphur etc. for meeting the gap between the requirement and the indigenous availability. The entire production and supply system is being subject to close monitoring. Arrangements are being made to move the materials expeditiously from plants and ports to consumption centres by close coordination with the Railways. The distribution is also being reviewed with the manufacturers and handling agents periodically.

Proposal to Amend Prasar Bharati Bill

361. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to implement the Prasar Bharati Act;

(b) whether Government are considering a proposal to make some amendments to the present Act; and

(c) if so, the details thereof

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUM. GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Preparatory work leading to establishment of the Prasar Bharati and introduction of competition in the electronic media has commenced.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, if necessary. However, it is not possible at this stage to spell out the details of such amendments, if any. The Government is committed to set up the Prasar Bharati and to introduce competition in the electronic media.

Prices of Imported Chemicals and Fertilisers

362. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of imported chemicals and fertilizers would go up after devaluation of the rupee;

(b) if so, to what extent and the details thereof;

(c) whether it would not lead to chain reaction in domestic manufacturer's prices; whether it would not also adversely affect the competitiveness of some of our exports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (d) The extent of increase, if any, in the prices of imported chemicals and fertilizers consequent on devaluation of the rupee and its impact on the domestic manufacturer's prices would depend on the tariff and other related factors concerning imports.

Points of Objections to Prasar Bharati Bill

363. SHR CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to implement the Prasar Bharati Act for Doordarshan autonomy;

(b) if not, what are the points of objections; and

(c) if so, by when implementation would be done?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUM. GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c) The Government is committed to set up Prasar Bharati and also to introduce competition in the electronic media. However, the possibility of bringing out suitable amendments in the Act particularly in the context of introducing competition in the electronic media cannot be ruled out.

Inclusion of Land Reforms Laws in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution

364. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the State Land Reforms Laws have been incluedd in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution making it easy to dispose of all the litigations against the implementation of Land Reforms Laws; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to enforce new provisions and clear all the litigations pending in the Courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) Land being a State subject, land reforms laws are enacted by State Governments from time to time. As and when the proposals for their inclusion in the Ninth Schedule are received from the States, these are examined on merit and included in the Ninth Schedule in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice. So far 222 land reform laws have been placed in the Ninth Schedule to reduce litigation.

It is the responsibility of the State Governments to take steps to enforce the provisions of their laws. Though inclusion of the laws in the Ninth Schedule does reduce the volume and scope of litigation it does not, however, completely eliminate the element of litigation.

Price Control through Expansion of Public Distribution System

365. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the extension and expansion of public distribution system is a vital factor in controlling the price rise of essential commodities;